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Nova Southeastern University

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# HAPPY Earth DAY

## Features



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## USGA announces election results

By: Jenna Kopec  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA) held their election party on April 12 to reveal the representatives for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Candidates this year either ran with the Poseidon party or as independents and several candidates ran unopposed.

The event was a celebration for students before the announcement of the new USGA. There was food, performances and giveaways throughout the night.

Tyrianna Richards, sophomore english major, was the only independent to win a position. She said she enjoyed celebrating her new role as upperclassmen senator watching the performances of the fire and hula dancers.

"The party was way crazier than I expected, and I had a lot of fun. I'm very grateful for being elected," said Richards.

Alex Reggiani, junior accounting major, ran with the Poseidon party for the position of president. She said she still feels honored to have the chance to be a part of USGA despite not having a campaign opponent.

Reggiani has been on USGA for three years and played a part in the rewriting of the USGA



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The 2018-2019 Undergraduate Student Government Association was revealed at the election party held April 12.

constitution in the fall and in the winter, which included adding the new positions dedicated to academics and community engagement and separating the Inter Organization Council (IOC) from USGA.

"This has really been my passion over the past three years and I'm excited about the changes we made," said Reggiani. "The majority of our time will be focused on academic concerns and other student concerns."

She plans on following through on changes to Shark Dining, making sure the academic senators are successful and

increasing school spirit.

The newly elected USGA will begin their term in May.

## A LOOK AT THE NEW USGA

### INDEPENDENTS

Tyrianna Richards, *Upperclassmen Senator*

### POSEIDON PARTY

Isabel Aris, *Commuter Senator*

Michelle Bauer, *Residential Senator*

Misha Brahmabhatt, *Upperclassmen Senator*

Ashton Bryan, *Academic Senator*

Chethani Chitraacharige, *Academic Senator*

Chris Chookagian, *IOC Senator*

Kristin Hawthorne, *Academic Senator*

Veronica Hermosilla, *Executive*

### Vice President

Miriam Mahmoud, *Academic Senator*

Marnie McLean, *Speaker of the Senate*

Naziba Nuha, *Underclassmen Senator*

Neal Patel, *Academic Senator*

Sanya Rashad, *Academic Senator*

Alexandrea Reggiani, *President*

Anthony Santoro, *Interfraternal Council*

Emily Stewart, *Athletic Senator*

Pooja Varma, *Diversity Senator*

Elisabeth Wong, *International Senator*

## Environmental Art Festival to be held at the MEEC

By: Madelyn Rinka  
News Editor

On Saturday, April 21, NSU's Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography will host an Environmental Art Festival in collaboration with the Marine Environmental Education Center (MEEC), Free Our Seas, Broward County Parks and Recreation and the City of Hollywood, Florida. The event will be held at The Carpenter House from 12-5 p.m.

Beforehand, the Surfrider Chapter of Broward County will sponsor a beach cleanup, outside of The Carpenter House. The art showcased will be inspired by nature and the ocean, and will take the form of sculptures, sand art, murals and more.

In addition, attendees can look forward to live music performances, activities and games for children, Captain the sea turtle feedings, hands-on art projects and food from a variety of vendors.

"It's harnessing the power of art and bringing awareness to the pollution that's happening to our ocean, and our waterways and



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Many of the featured pieces featured at the Environmental Art Festival are made from debris and trash found from beach clean-ups.

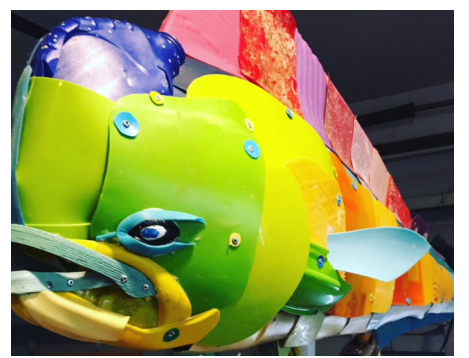
our beaches, [caused] by continuing the use of single-use plastics," said Manon Weise, co-chair for the festival. "That's what inspired us to do this festival, because all of our beaches were covered with trash, plastic bottles, plastic bags, everywhere."

Weise explained that some of the art pieces are not only inspired by the environment, but also

utilize pieces of what would have been pollution in their creation. For example, one piece that will be on display is a flip-flop grouper, a sculpture of a fish that has been created out of around 200 flip-flops that were found on Hollywood beach. Other artworks utilize plastics, buckets, straws and other trash that has been picked up on beach clean ups. Students in the community have submitted art to be shown as well.

The inaugural event is an attempt to educate the public and spread awareness about marine debris and how we can all do our part to help the environment. For example, attendees are encouraged to bring reusable water bottles to the event that can be filled there, so as to reduce the footprint of the festival itself. Vendors at the event will also refrain from using plastics in favor of more sustainable alternatives.

"The idea behind it is really to highlight a lot of the artists and groups who are featuring recycled and upcycled art, and how we can help the environment by reducing our waste,"



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM M. WEISE  
One of the featured pieces is a flip-flop grouper, sculpted out of almost 200 flip-flops found on Hollywood beach.

explained Amy Hupp, caretaker and program coordinator at MEEC.

Admission to the event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact manon.freeourseas@gmail.com or elaine.fiore@browardschools.com, or visit artscalendar.com/event/free-seas-beyond-environmental-art-festival/.

# News Anchor

Stay up to date with international and national events.

## House Speaker Paul Ryan to retire

Paul Ryan announced on April 11 that he will not seek re-election, though he will complete his term. The Wisconsin Republican said in a statement that he wants to spend more time with his family, according to USA Today. Many GOP lawmakers supported Ryan's decision to retire. Leadership in the House will not be decided until November.

## Parkland shooter requests inheritance money to go to victims

The 19-year-old charged with killing 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School has asked for his inheritance money to be donated to the victims. Defense lawyer Melisa McNeil stated in court that the suspect, "would like the money donated to an organization that the victims' family believes would be able to facilitate healing in our community or an opportunity to educate our community about the issues that have ripened over the last four or five months," according to USA Today. According to ABC News, the suspect may have inheritable annuity potentially worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

## Mark Zuckerberg testifies to Congress

Facebook Founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg testified before the Senate Commerce and Judiciary committees on April 10 and House Energy and Commerce Committee on April 11. The billionaire took responsibility for mistakes made. Senators criticized the lack of privacy on the website since as many as 87 million users had their data compromised. According to the New York Times, Zuckerberg's calm appearance helped Facebook stocks to rise.

## Excess drinking can shorten a person's life, study finds

According to BBC, having 10 to 15 alcoholic drinks every week could shorten a person's life span between one to two years. Those who consume more than 18 drinks a week could lose up to five years of their life. The study published by Lancet observed 600,000 drinkers and did not find an increased risk of death for light drinkers. The study backed up 2016 UK guidelines for drinking, which recommends no more than 6 pints of beer or 7 glasses of wine.

## News Briefs

### Alvin Sherman Library to extend hours for finals

The Alvin Sherman Library will be extending their hours to allow students to study for finals. The library will be open from 7 a.m. to 12 a.m. every day from April 21 to May 5.

### Commencement ceremonies to begin May 10

Commencement ceremonies for the graduating Class of 2018 will begin on May 10. NSU will be awarding bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees to more than 7,000 students in various areas of study. Commencement speakers include, Director of The Florida Bar's Legal Divisions John T. Berry, J.D. and entrepreneur Seth Siegel, J.D.. Commencement ceremonies will also be live streamed. For more information, visit [nova.edu/commencement/](http://nova.edu/commencement/).

### President's Town Hall meeting rescheduled

The President's Town Hall meeting previously scheduled for April 3 has been rescheduled. The town hall will now take place on April 23 at 2 p.m. The town hall will take place in the Knight Auditorium in the Desantis Building. For more information, visit [nova.edu/townhall/](http://nova.edu/townhall/).

### 2018 Broward Heart Walk to take place at Fort Lauderdale/Davie campus

The 2018 Broward Heart walk will be taking place at NSU's Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus. The walk begins at 8 a.m. All roads near campus will close approximately 10 minutes before the walk takes place and reopen as the last participant clears the area. Parking for the Maltz Psychology Building, Carl DeSantis Building or Leo Goodwin Sr. Hall will still be available. For more information regarding parking, email [facilities@nova.edu](mailto:facilities@nova.edu). For more information on the Broward Heart Walk, visit [2.heart.org/site/TR?fr\\_id=3013&pg=entry](http://2.heart.org/site/TR?fr_id=3013&pg=entry).

# The Current

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## NSU to host final Grad Fest of 2018

By: **Madelyn Rinka**  
News Editor

NSU is hosting its final Grad Fest before the 2018 Spring Commencement on April 26, from noon-6 p.m. in the Shark Store at the Don Taft University Center. Held every year, the event is a way for students to celebrate their success upon nearing graduation, and gather all their essentials in one place, from regalia and announcements to gifts for grads and diploma frames.

“Grad Fest is preparation for graduation where students can have the opportunity to take pictures, [view] samples of the [class] rings, pick up their caps and gowns if they ordered them already,” said Sue Garcia, general merchandise manager for the Shark Store. “[Students can also] meet reps for the alumni association, debt management, graduate admissions and

student affairs.”

To further the celebration, attending students can look forward to free music, food, giveaways, photos and fun. In the past, NSU gifts like Shark keychains have been given away, although it has not yet been decided what giveaways there will be at the fest. According to NSU’s website, representatives from Werner Kahn Studios will be at the event to take photographs of graduates in their academic regalia. The portrait sitting is free and the proofs will be provided with no obligation to purchase.

Grad Fest also gives students the opportunity to purchase a “Stole of Gratitude.” With this, the graduate honors someone who has been of help to their academic or personal life by wearing the stole during commencement and

presenting it to the person afterwards.

In addition, graduating students will be able to get more information about joining the alumni association by meeting attending reps.

“It is important to stay connected with the alumni association because we provide many benefits and services for our alumni,” said Patricia Rameau, coordinator of the alumni relations department. “We provide job resources for them through our platform called NSU Connect, which definitely [is graduates’] gateway to their professional career.”

NSU Connect is a way for graduates to reconnect with former classmates, establish a network and utilize NSU’s trusted environment to create professional connections. According to Rameau, this is also an opportunity to meet

mentors in a desired field, as well as stay up-to-date with events happening at the university to stay engaged in the community.

“[We want to] let all new grads know that they are a part of a large community of alumni, our numbers are continuously growing. They would be a part of about 180,000 alumni around the world,” said Rameau. “Once a Shark, always a Shark.”

Membership to NSU Alumni Association is completely free for graduates to join and use. If graduates are unable to attend Grad Fest, they are encouraged to reach out to the Shark Store at 954-262-4765 or the alumni association at alumni@nova.edu or 954-262-2118.

## SLCE to end semester with events focused on service

By: **Michaela Greer**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Office of Student Life and Civic Engagement (SLCE) will host its final service events of the Winter 2018 semester with a concluding installment of a “Service in the City” event on April 19, and an “Earth Day of Service” scheduled to take place on April 22.

According to Andrea Dobo, graduate assistant for SLCE, both of the events were created to provide students with opportunities to serve their South Florida community.

“Students have the ability to step out of their comfort zones and see a perspective of Fort Lauderdale that they may not have had before,” said Dobo. “These opportunities help students relate to what they see on the news or read in the books, and are able to see that this is their reality, too.”

Dobo explained that the Service in the City events specifically aim to allow students to help people who make up the large homeless population in Fort Lauderdale through SLCE’s partnership with HOPE South Florida, a Christian-based non-profit organization that provides support services for the homeless.

Participating students will meet at the



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Student volunteers prepare for meal service with representatives of HOPE South Florida before feeding the homeless during a previous Service in the City event.

Shark Circle at 5 p.m. on April 19 where they will be transported from campus to the HOPE South Florida location to assist with the meal service.

According to Emily Konicki, the program assistant for SLCE, students would typically sign up to volunteer for this event by visiting SLCE’s Orgsync page to complete the form. However, as of April 12, all available volunteer spots have been filled.

“This event [Service in the City] has been filled, so students will need to email slce@nova.edu to find out if any spots have opened up,” said Konicki. “[However], students can sign-up

on OrgSync in the ‘Events’ tab under the Student Leadership and Civic Engagement portal [for Earth Day of Service].”

In celebration of Earth Day on April 22, students can participate in a clean-up effort at the Fort Lauderdale Beach from 8:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“Students will be assisting in cleaning up the beach and then will have about 30 minutes of free time with food after our reflection,” said Konicki. “Food will be provided, but they should bring water, sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses and a towel — they can bring other items as needed.”

Konicki also recommends that participating

students wear a bathing suit under their clothing.

Dobo adds that transportation will be provided, though students are welcome to meet at the location. Konicki mentioned that those who wish to utilize the provided transportation should meet SLCE representatives by the flagpole in front of the Horvitz Administration building at 8:15 a.m. on April 22.

“Some students who want the opportunity don’t always know where to look when searching for service, so this [the events hosted by SLCE] helps them in terms of just wanting to go out and help,” said Dobo. “Since we provide transportation, it also helps students who may not want to drive or do not have a car to drive.”

“The overall goal is to help assist students with the education of social responsibility,” said Dobo. “Civic engagement is a topic that students don’t always have the best experience with, so as an office we [SLCE] try to provide these opportunities as much as we can for students.”

For more information about the events hosted by SLCE, email slce@nova.edu or call 954-262-7195.

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## Why do we celebrate Earth Day?

By: **Madelyn Rinka**

News Editor

Most people remember celebrating Earth Day in elementary school — from the erupting baking soda and vinegar volcanoes to sprouting pea plants on a windowsill, it seemed more like a day for crafts and fun experiments than about recycling. Beyond that, however, Earth Day holds a much deeper significance that many people don't fully understand.

According to Study.com, in 1970, Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson proposed the idea of a "national teach-in on the environment." Nelson, along with co-chair Congressman Pete McCloskey, and national coordinator Denis Hayes of Harvard University, recruited 85 individuals to help promote the concept around the country. On the first celebration of Earth Day on April 22, 1970, approximately 20

million citizens gathered and engaged in various activities to promote a healthy environment. Since then, Earth Day has helped found The United States Environmental Protection Agency, and subsequently several acts, such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. Today, the holiday is the largest non-secular celebration in the world.

But, why should you care? Chances are, you know that littering is bad and utilizing a reusable water bottle is better than a plastic one. We, generally, know what we can do to be a bit more eco friendly, but we don't always know why it's important. Unfortunately, it can be a matter of life and death.

According to The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),

outdoor air pollution can lead to a variety of health problems, including heart and asthma attacks, bronchitis and even premature death. That doesn't even account for acid rain, visibility impairment and the diminishing of the protective ozone layer. This pollution can be traced back to things like power plants, gas stations or natural processes like wildfires or volcanic eruptions. In addition, the EPA states that indoor air quality problems can cause eye irritation, dizziness, fatigue, respiratory diseases and cancer. This can be created by environmental tobacco smoke, dust and mold or by volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, which are emitted gases from certain liquids or solids, like paint strippers, aerosol sprays or air fresheners. It is estimated that our indoor environment may be two to five times

more toxic than our outdoor environment. This doesn't even begin to touch on the problems pollutants can cause for animals, heritage sites or biodiversity.

This is the importance of Earth Day. Sure, some pollutants are naturally occurring, but what we can do to decrease our anthropogenic impacts is what counts. It seems like common sense that we do what we can to slow the degeneration of our environment, especially when our habits can create a slew of problems for our own health. If you can make a decision now to help make the world a healthier place for everyone, why wouldn't you do it? Use Earth Day as a chance to educate yourself on the environmental impacts of your daily habits and take the steps necessary toward reducing your footprint.



### Career Corner



## Job Search Tips for LGBTQIA Identifying Students

By: **Ashley Rizzotto**

Contributing Writer

*Ashley Rizzotto works in the Office of Career Development with current undergraduate students, graduate students and alumni to ensure the confidence and success of those she meets with.*

Feeling comfortable in your workplace can be instrumental or detrimental to your ability to be successful. The expression of your sexual identity — especially if you identify on the LGBTQIA+, or Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans\*, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Ally, spectrum — as part of your authentic self can sometimes bring about questions or concerns when writing a resume or conducting the job search. There are no right or wrong answers or rules, only what is right for you. Here is a starting point of strategies, ideas and tips to work through some of the challenges you might face as you navigate the process of finding your next job or internship.

### Check out the company's Corporate Equality Index

The Human's Rights Campaign has developed the Corporate Equality Index (CEI) as a "tool to rate American businesses on their treatment of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees, consumers and



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM E. LORENZO Rizzotto works in the Office of Career Development and provides useful tips on finding LGBTQIA+ friendly companies for employment.

investors." These ratings look at corporate policies and actions towards the LGBTQIA+ community to inform their score. Companies including Twitter, Univision, HP Sustainability, Groupon and Walt Disney World grace the top of this list as employers that advocate for LGBTQIA+ equality within their organizations and amongst their consumers. Using this index is one of many ways to conduct research that will help in your decision-making process.

### Ask questions during your interview

For times when you apply for jobs that are not featured in the CEI, the interview is a

great time to advocate for what you need in the workplace. To figure out if they are an LGBTQIA+ friendly space, consider asking about diversity and inclusion initiatives within the organization. This questions can include: "Can you tell me about what diversity looks like here?"; "What do you like about the culture?" and "How do you see the employer's non-discrimination policy in action here?"

Interviews are a time that you should be yourself, testing the waters with the questions above can help you determine what you want to share as you express your ability, motivation and fit for the job you are interviewing for.

### Locations can matter

Along with assessing the workspace, paying attention to the geographic location can inform if where the job is located is right for you. Research state regulations and commitments to diversity, as well as opposing legislation. What are the state regulations regarding discrimination? What is the employer's commitment to diversity? Has the employer been formally recognized as LGBT-friendly?

### Do I have to disclose my sexual identity in an interview?

You are never obligated to provide private

information regarding your sexual orientation. In fact, according to Business Insider, it is illegal by state and federal government for employers to ask about "national origin, citizenship, age, marital status, disabilities, arrest and conviction record, military discharge status, race, gender or pregnancy status," which encompasses sexual identity and orientation.

### Other things that you may find helpful to research while conducting your assessment are:

Non-discrimination policies that include sexual orientation and gender identity/expression  
Company trainings that include sensitivity to LGBTQ issues

Organizations that participate in PRIDE  
Availability of gender neutral restrooms  
In-house support or employee groups, either formal or informal

Sponsorship of or participation in LGBTQ community activities

Participation in recruitment events specific to LGBTQ candidates

Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE) statements in job descriptions

Positive statements from people with experience at the company like those found on Glassdoor.com and Indeed.com

## Crash diets won't work

By: **Jenna Kopec**

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Crash dieting is arguably one of the most popular ways to lose weight. As the name suggests, these diets are restrictive plans to "help" people lose a large amount of weight over a short amount of time before returning to your normal way of life. In the event that no one's told you, that's not necessarily the best idea.

### First things first, most diets are crash diets

Crash diets are usually part of a fad — think the paleo diet — and according to Marilyn Gordon, registered dietitian nutritionist, most diets are some form of a crash diet or fad.

"Most diets are fads in the sense that if it's a 'diet' for most people there's a sense that there's a start point and end point," she said. "So it's not really a lifestyle or a way of eating."

The problem with diets? There are a few, but one of them is that you'll usually regain the weight after you end the restrictive diet. This leads to what Gordon referred to as a cycle of

on-again, off-again dieting, sometimes called yo-yo dieting.

### They pose dangers to your health

The most obvious risk when it comes to dieting is to your physical health.

"Some people won't even know that they have blood sugar regulation issues until they try one of those plans and then the next thing they know they're feeling light-headed and dizzy," said Gordon.

Although Gordon said that young people tend to be more resilient to the physical effects of these diets, there are still long term effects that can come from yo-yo dieting, namely low muscle and bone density.

Restricting your caloric intake, especially during stressful times like midterms and finals week, can impact your performance both physically and cognitively. Your brain is just as dependent on what you eat as the rest

of your body.

"From a nutrient perspective, these diets are certainly void of all the nutrients a body needs to be healthy," Gordon said.

Crash diets, especially when done throughout your lifetime, can also pose dangers to your psychological health in terms of self-esteem and even eating disorders.

"The frequent restrictive eating and dieting can lead to things like true eating disorders," Gordon explained. "And we never know who is the person that is going to be impacted in that way, so you almost don't want to take the chance that it's you."

### You have resources to make lifestyle changes

Gordon recommends making slow changes to your lifestyle.

"Ideally, would be for students to assess their eating habits," said Gordon. "To look for ways to improve [their diets]."

This can be something as simple as changing a small eating habit, like reducing soda consumption, which is likely to last longer. She said students may have also made changes to their diet or exercise patterns once entering college without noticing it.

"Those little practices are more likely to become health behaviors that you'll stick with," she said. "Diets are severe and restrictive and that's why they don't work."

She also said that students can utilize the dietitians at the school, like herself, which is covered under the medical insurance provided by the university. Students would simply need to make an appointment with a physician at one of the student clinics and get a referral. These individuals can help you find a slow, measured approach that will work for your body.

## Staying safe while flying solo

By: **Madelyn Rinka**  
News Editor

Almost everyone wishes to see more of the world — from the lure of faraway lands to the thrill of adventures abroad, it's easy to understand why. Plenty of things can hold you back, however, whether it's money, time or a number of other aspects. Even if you do have the budget and vacation days reserved, sometimes you can't muster up that wanderlust in someone else to snag yourself a travel partner. But don't let a lack of a buddy hold you back. With these tips, you're sure to keep it safe — and reap the benefits — while flying solo.

### Keep track of everything

If you're hopping on a flight to your dream destination, try to keep it as light as possible. A carry-on piece of luggage and one personal item, like a tote bag or backpack, should be more than enough space if you pack smart. If you limit

yourself to just these two items, it will be much easier to maneuver your way around the airport and to your destination, according to Jessie on a Journey. Having large, bulky bags to keep track of can lead to items getting stolen, slowing you down or just causing extra stress from lugging around bags in a foreign place for hours.

### Don't stay just anywhere

Hotels or lodging can quickly become the greatest expense, especially if you're travelling alone and you don't have someone to split the cost with. Even if it will cost you a few bucks, don't stay at a hotel with few or poor ratings. When you're travelling solo, the last thing you need is to feel unsafe in the place that you're staying. It should be your refuge after a long day, not something you dread going back to. According to Forbes, the more positive ratings

the better, as it will help you feel less vulnerable in an unfamiliar place. This doesn't mean you have to go to a five star, all-inclusive resort, but if the difference is \$20 a night to stay in a room that's bug-free, locked and in a safe neighborhood, it might be worth it.

### Start your day early, and turn in early

Being alone in the dark in a foreign place is scary. You're not familiar with the roads, people may be looking to take advantage of you and your vision is somewhat impaired. To remedy this, try to start your day early, as encouraged by Forbes. Rather than waking up at noon, get a head start to your adventures and begin your day in the early morning. This way, you'll be able to pack in more sightseeing before the sun starts to set, and it gets a bit more dangerous to travel alone. If you do find yourself out late, be sure

to know where your hotel is, have a plan to get back and avoid anything that could impair your judgement or make you an easy target for crime.

### Read ahead

You're not the first person to travel alone. Before you embark on your adventure, do a quick search online to see if anyone has written a blog about their experience abroad in your destination of choice. There will likely be at least one, if not many, accounts of what others have done while travelling solo — read up on their trips, see what they did to help them feel safe and learn from their mistakes. Websites like AllSinglesTravel.com and SafeCheckIn.com are even dedicated to this. After all, experience is a great way to gain wisdom, even if that experience isn't your own.

## Summertime is the time to keep being productive

By: **Diego Galvez**  
Sports Editor

For many college students, summer is the perfect time to go back to your family, catch up with friends from home as well as to catch up on some much-needed sleep. However, for others, doing all those things can be pretty easy and, if you are used to a busy schedule, you may fall into boredom causing you to feel down if you think you have nothing to do. Luckily, for those who want to keep themselves busy and active during the summer, there are several things you can do to make your summer more active and productive.

### Apply for a summer internship

Summer internships are one of the best ways to explore your career options and get hands-on experience in your future field. Deadlines can be tricky for most of them and you should try and plan ahead of time if you really want one. However, since every field is different, deadlines to submit your application can vary.

Doing a summer internship will not only keep you busy, but help you learn more about the field you are interested in as well as provide a unique experience that will help you grow in many ways. Having a summer internship on your résumé can make you a more desirable applicant and a more experienced one, factors that are highly important for employers. According to Harvard Business Review, 39 percent of employers state that lack of experience causes hiring shortages. Having an internship will give you an advantage over those who don't have experience.

### Apply for a summer job

Having a job over summer may not sound as appealing to some, but there are many advantages to having one. One of the most important benefits is that you'll be making money. A few extra bucks won't do harm and that way you can save for college, a trip you

have been wanting to take or buy something you always wanted; the possibilities are endless.

Another big factor of having a summer job is the experience, especially if you work in customer service or sales industries. Even though your major or your goals may not be focused on that particular line of work, working in customer service or sales is a valuable experience that everyone should have at least once. You never know, it may provide a new perspective on how you see sales or customer service jobs.

Nevertheless, having experience and gaining those skills are highly valuable. According to an analysis of 2.3 million LinkedIn profiles for The Wall Street Journal, nearly 58 percent of employees who demonstrated stellar communication skills were hired over the course of a year. This suggests that employers do take into consideration those basic, but necessary, skills when looking for someone to hire.

### Practice a sport

Instead of laying on your couch watching TV and being unproductive, why not give all you can to a sport you like, or have always wanted to try? Trying a new sport or just giving your maximum effort in a sport will not only get you healthy and active, it can help you boost your confidence since sports can affect you both physically and mentally.

You release endorphins when you play sports, which reduces your perception of pain and also triggers a positive feeling in the body, similar to that of morphine, according to WebMD. Trying a new sport can also be beneficial since you can learn a lot about yourself when practicing sports. Practicing a new sport challenges you to try new things and step out of your comfort zone.

## That Time I.... attended a Global Leaders conference

By: **Edwina Ward**  
Contributing Writer

*Edwina Ward is a second-year doctoral graduate student majoring in Conflict Resolution Analysis Studies. She serves as the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate Student Government Association President at NSU. In the community, she is the founder of Leaders Recognizing Leaders (LRL), a 501c3 nonprofit community organization dedicated to mentoring young people to become leaders and young diplomats through community service projects and global communications.*

When I first saw the flyer online about the Global Leadership Organization (GLO), I was immediately interested. I began doing a little research, only to learn that the conference was outside of my state, and I had to either drive 40 hours from Fort Lauderdale to San Francisco, California, or take a flight. I chose to make the trip.

First, I registered for the conference. Then, I made plans to fly over 2,782.2 miles away from home to meet total strangers. This was indeed an exploration of the unknown. After traveling over five hours from Florida to California, I was filled with fatigue but had an attitude filled with gratitude for the journey.



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM E. WARD  
Ward poses for a picture with conference delegates at the 2018 Global Leadership Organization Conference.

The day I arrived, I was super pumped about meeting everyone. The first meeting started at 8:00 a.m. with an opening session featuring Teddy Liaw, founder of GLO and CEO of multimillion-dollar Silicon Valley company, NexRep. Liaw shared his vision for starting the organization, which is to inspire aspiring future trailblazers like us to become "social transformative leaders."

Overall, the focus of the global leadership conference was based on people management, project management, meeting management, communication and public speaking. What made the conference most interesting was the added value of working together in small groups to discuss how we must be more strategic and analytical in the process of creating transformative social changes. Also, we talked

about creating visions, goals, objectives and using the power of technology to communicate with young people around the world to achieve future goals.

At the conference, I was trained by Gordon Yoon, a graduate of UCLA who is a software engineer at Google Cloud. In my small group sessions, we were asked if we knew where we wanted to be in the next five years and whether we were prepared to fight for a cause to empower others. Many of us were clear about our academic career goals, but had not paid much attention to the thought of being change agents around the world until then.

At the closing session, I won a gift card for networking with everyone in the room. At the end of the experience, I gave a speech to the audience by sharing that despite my fears of the unknown, I did not allow that to stop my decisions to travel for the conference. It is all about being determined to "travel the distance," which is something more young emerging leaders must do in their quest to succeed.



## STAFF PICKS: WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE MOMENT OF THE 2017–2018 SCHOOL YEAR?

By: The Current Staff

**Skylyr Vanderveer, multimedia manager, said:**

“My favorite moment of this academic year just so happens to be the day I met my very amazing friends. Having a strong support system makes being over 1,000 miles away from home much easier. My friends have become my second family and I truly feel blessed to have them in my life.”

**Diego “Martin” Galvez, sports editor, said:**

“My favorite moment of the 2017-2018 school year was my trip to Halloween Horror Nights with my friends because it was my first time going to one of these events in a theme park and I really wanted to go. From our drive to Orlando to being at the park, the whole trip was unforgettable.”

**Sydney Stoneback, visual design and multimedia assistant, said:**

“I don’t have a specific favorite moment from this school year, I just have a lot of small moments that made my year. Most of my best memories were just spending time in the residence halls with my best friends and doing random stuff that only we would find funny.”

**Madelyn Rinka, news editor, said:**

“I think my favorite part of the year was meeting my roommates. It’s pretty rare that three people get along so well, especially when they’re placed in the same room by chance. We were all stressed about having to live in a triple, but I’m glad I was able to meet my best friends. Also, joining a sorority was a great decision for me — it helped me get involved on campus, meet more friends and keep busy.”

**Michaela Greer, co-editor-in-chief, said:**

“Does finding out that my degree had been conferred count? Otherwise, I’d go with the opening of my senior exhibition. It had been a particularly emotionally trying day, but after seeing all of the people I loved take time out of their day, to support me in doing what I loved, it made all of the hard work and stress worth it.”

**Nicole Chavannes, copy editor, said:**

“In terms of things I do at school, my favorite moment was probably the launch of ‘Digressions,’ our school’s literary magazine that I’m the editor-in-chief of. It took so much hard work dedication from the entire staff and once it launched all that hard work felt so worth it. Personally, my favorite moment has to be the trip I took to Orlando in February with my then-

boyfriend. He proposed in Diagon Alley at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter and now we’re engaged -- I definitely think that was my favorite moment.”

**Jenna Kopec, co-editor-in-chief, said:**

“This was a really challenging year for me in a lot of ways. I think that my favorite moment was when I was applying to an internship at a magazine and the person interviewing me said that she loved my writing. It seems like something really small, but I guess it just kind of validated all the hard work I put in this semester. It made me feel like I could make it in the ‘real’ world.”

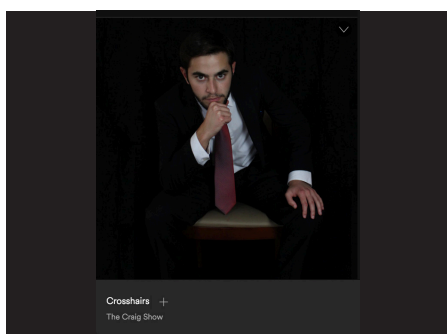
## SOUNDBITE

### ‘The Pilot Episode’ by The Craig Show

By: Adam DeRoss  
Contributing Writer

Student talent is something that should never be ignored, although it often is when it comes to the world of entertainment media. Especially within the music industry, the unrefined and exploratory sounds of student music projects are often dismissed as nothing more than cheap imitations of those students’ musical inspirations. However, as four students on our very own campus are here to prove, student music projects can be much more than what the industry makes of them. Nico Raimont, Julian Glasthal, Rey Perez and their muse and inspiration Craig Sippin are all Razor’s Edge Shark Talent students at NSU. While each of them has their own musical experiences and agendas of their own, they have melded their comradery and musical abilities together to create their very first full-length album release as The Craig Show. “The Pilot Episode,” released on April 1, is a collection of eight tracks that aim to create a thematic album experience that highlights the personalities and individual talents of its collaborators.

The record kicks off with “The Pitch,” a skit featuring a humorously dramatic and soulful opening monologue provided by Perez



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“The Pilot Episode” by The Craig Show is a music project by NSU students.

over the smooth, mysterious strumming of an acoustic guitar. He is judged by Sippin, playing the role of a skeptical record label representative with Glasthal and Raimont getting ready to convince him of the band’s talent. This skit does an effective job at setting the tone for the rest of the record, and the strum at the end of the track flows into the next track.

“Crosshairs,” arguably the most well-known and heavily featured song on the record among the band’s peers, is a passionate approach to a love song that does an interesting job at

melding multiple musical genres and subverting the expectations that come with each of them. The instrumental features a healthy blend of harmonic acoustic guitar and the pulsating heartbeat of the Latin percussion underlying it. The transition between Glasthal’s singing voice and rapping voice is unexpected but fitting and welcoming while the instrumental bridge featuring some funky saxophone fills is a nice touch. The choruses are warm and well mixed, lending to the overall emotional tone of the track. The track is later followed up by “Crosshairs – Reprise,” a much simpler, yet more evocative acoustic rendition of the track that rounds out the original content on the album quite nicely.

The band seems to be open about the musical inspirations that they take from their own experiences as evidenced by their tasteful cover of the late George Michael’s “Careless Whisper.” The instrumentation is immediately recognizable and inviting while still retaining the flair that the band presents in their instrumentals over the rest of the record. It is emotional, groovy and smooth. This track also does a great job of bringing out Raimont’s vocals and the emotion they can possess. Some of the vocal

improvisations in his performance are fitting and complement the flow of the track well.

The most interesting cut on the record, however, both sonically and thematically, is “Baby G.” The track subverts expectations by beginning very similarly to “Crosshairs” before launching into a high energy ballad about the titular Baby G driven forward by consistent guitar fills and the pulse of the drums. The saxophone comes back in full force with some aggressive and funky fills that come to a halt as the final third of the track transitions into a slow, methodical and more emotional tone that rounds out the cut.

“The Pilot Episode” is a great first effort put forth by the Shark Talent group that comprises The Craig Show. While nothing is perfect, and they have room for improvement, the record puts forth their talents in a way that inspires and foreshadows their efforts to come. Sonically, the record is a great collection of diverse sounds and styles for budding artists and the songwriting, while simple, is catchy, rhythmic and full of emotion. In a sea of newly emerging talent, this unassuming student album project is one that shines with potential and personality.

### Logic’s ‘Bobby Tarantino II’

By: Nicole Chavannes  
Copy Editor

If there’s anything Logic, known best for his song “1-800-273-8255,” wants you to take away from his mixtape “Bobby Tarantino II,” it’s that a) he’s married, b) he smokes weed, c) he works hard and d) there’s a difference between “album Logic” and “mixtape Logic.” Okay, so he’s not exactly married anymore — he and his wife announced their separation less than two weeks after this mixtape released on March 9 — but that’s beside the point.

The mixtape is a sequel to Logic’s, or Sir Robert Bryson Hall II’s, 2016 mixtape “Bobby Tarantino.” It starts off with the hilarious skit intro “Grandpa’s Space Ship” which features the characters Rick and Morty from the show “Rick & Morty” — go figure — discussing the differences between “album” and “mixtape” versions of Logic. Rick thinks that while album Logic focuses on “messages about how I can be whatever I want or... equality and everybody,”

mixtape Logic is about “throwing stacks” and some “good ol’ ATL style club rap.” Basically, Logic’s music varies and he’s got different songs for different moods; Bobby Tarantino is the perfect combination between Logic’s feel-good songs of empowerment and the kind of rap that makes you want to “turn up,” as we kids say.

Much of Logic’s previous work is darker or inspirational, depending on the album. “Under Pressure” (2014) focuses on Logic’s dark past and childhood living with a drug-addicted mother and fickle father. Later albums like “The Incredible True Story” (2015) and “Everybody” (2017) focus on uplifting others and striving for equality. All of those albums are great, as they spread messages of positivity and/or emphasize overcoming adversity, but that doesn’t make “Bobby Tarantino” or “Bobby Tarantino II” any less great, as both mixtapes are Logic’s well-deserved pat on the back for his

hard work, success and crazy flow. I mean, this guy can freestyle while solving a Rubik’s Cube; he deserves some bragging rights.

Some of his most lyrically impressive songs on the mixtape are “Indica Badu,” “Warm it Up,” “Wassup” and “44 More,” a follow-up to his one-verse, 44-bar song on his “Bobby Tarantino” mixtape appropriately named “44 Bars.” Logic released this song first, saying, “I wanted people to be like ‘The suicide guy raps?’” On this mixtape, indeed he does.

“Indica Badu,” which features Wiz Khalifa, is basically an ode to smoking pot, and is appropriately mellow while remaining lyrically clever and demanding. “Wassup” featuring Big Sean is similarly masterful, as both Logic and Sean show off their lyrical prowess over a mellow beat. One of Logic’s biggest strengths is his ability to make you want to simultaneously bob your head and have an intense rap battle

with your friends.

While Logic’s most mainstream work might paint him as humble, Bobby Tarantino “brings the facts,” as he says in his song “Yuck.” Logic assures you throughout the mixtape in songs like “Overnight,” “Contra” and “State of Emergency” that his success is hard-won. The rapper’s ability to confidently acknowledge his skills and success while maintaining his motto of “peace, love and positivity” is impressive. He avoids beef with other rappers and simply emphasizes his own talent as he raps about being the greatest alive.

Logic is cocky in this mixtape — as most rappers are — but not in an annoying way. He celebrates himself and his hard work, just as listeners celebrate themselves when they listen to it. I challenge anyone to listen to “Everyday” on his or her way to work and not feel empowered to kick some serious butt for the rest of the day.

# Actress Charity Angél Dawson dishes on her experiences playing Becky in 'Waitress'

By: **Michaela Greer**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

What do lucky audiences get when an inventive all-female creative group partner with Tony Award winning director Diane Paulus and six-time Grammy award nominee Sara Bareilles to adapt a book written by celebrated screenwriter Jessie Nelson? A recipe for a sensational musical which Entertainment Weekly describes as nothing short of a “little slice of heaven.”

“Waitress” takes audiences on a journey into the life of a waitress named Jenna who has big dreams of escaping her tiny town and loveless marriage. With the help of her supportive friends and a spunky coworker named Becky, portrayed by actress Charity Angél Dawson, the characters learn how to earn their own slice of the American Pie — and eat it too.

**Firstly, I want to congratulate you on having been a part of the U.S. tour for ‘Waitress.’**

Thank you. It’s been fun.

**Looking at your bio, it’s evident that you have a lot of acting experience from performing in ‘The Color Purple’ to ‘The Wiz’ to ‘West Side Story.’ What inspired you to make a career of acting?**

“Well I have always been a singer. I’ve been singing my whole life; my whole family sings. But as far as acting is concerned, I really fell in love with storytelling in my junior year of high school when I competed in college-level activities like speech and debate. I really kind of fell in love with telling stories, the simplicity of breaking something down and just focusing on the text and the message of the story. After that, I was kind of hooked.”

**What drew you to ‘Waitress?’**

“Well first and foremost, Sara Bareilles, because she has been my favorite artist for a very long time. So, when I saw her name attached to it I was like ‘Oh my gosh, I need to see what this is about. I can do something in the back; I don’t care, I just need to be a part of it’ ... I went in and auditioned and now it’s almost three years later and here I am.”

**Without giving any major plot twists or details away, how might you describe the story behind ‘Waitress?’**

“It’s about a waitress who’s in a small town. She’s trying to figure out her life and she’s in this loveless marriage and she finds out she’s pregnant and that kind of takes her on a journey toward that self-discovery, toward making decisions that are for her and not for everyone



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Dawson (left) as Becky poses alongside castmates Desi Oakley and Lenne Klingaman while on the national tour of “Waitress.”

else. She’s able to come out of being a doormat and see herself, and she’s able to thrive in the end.”

**It sounds like a story that many audiences might be able to relate to on a personal level.**

“I love that about the story. I think that even the subplots and the characters, it’s all about everyone finding their version of happy and their version of being able to wake up in the morning and looking in the mirror and say ‘I like what’s happening here. I like the life I’m living.’”

**I understand being drawn to a production because of a particular artist. I’m the same way with artworks in museums. But, did you have an idea of a character that you wanted to portray when you auditioned?**

“I just wanted to be a part of it. I watched the movie and then I read the script and I said, ‘Wow. This is a really great show.’ The role that I originally went in for was Norma and she was just so feisty and fun. I wanted to sink my teeth into that and I knew that I would have a chance to eventually play Becky at some point, too, so that was exciting.”

**Is there any specific reason why you had your eye on playing Becky? What is she like?**

“Becky is a no-nonsense kind of person. She is straightforward and to the point. She may get a little feisty, or a little quick here and there,

but it’s all love. I love her feelings toward her friends and her desire to see them find their best life; to find their version of happy in life. I love that she’s that support to the people around her.”

**Have you found any characteristics of Becky that mirror your own personality?**

“Absolutely. There are definitely some things that I identify with. You know, my relationship toward my friends and how I’ve kind of played the support a lot of times. But, there are also things that definitely separate us, too, so I have been able to find that after doing it for three years that I’ve been able to find the balance of the two.”

**In your opinion, what is Becky like in comparison to the other characters that you’ve portrayed over the span of your career?**

“I would say that she’s definitely different. I have not played anyone like her. She’s a little older. She’s a little more ‘I’ve been around the way; I’ve been there, done it all and seen it all and learned from it.’ But, I think that she lives with no regrets — except for not living even more and not giving herself over to her desires.”

**Three years is a long time to work on a project of any degree. How do you stay motivated? What keeps you going?**

“Passion for what we do, a passion for doing this. It can be exhausting at times but we love it. If you stop loving it, then you stop doing it and so I love it still.”

**What has it been like travelling to different areas on this tour?**

“Every city is different, so some of the jokes land differently in different demographics and different towns. But, it’s exciting because it’s new every week and every night with a different audience because the audiences, and the cast members, change ... so it’s cool. It’s kind of a refreshing moment every time we go to a new city.”

**Have you learned anything about yourself while being a part of this production?**

“Absolutely. I’ve learned that I’m stronger than I believed I was. I’ve learned that I’m capable of more than I thought I could handle. I’ve learned that balance — in a work and professional life — and separating the two and creating boundaries for myself is important. That’s something that I’ll always carry with me.”

**Based on your experiences, what words of advice might you share with an actor or actress who’s just starting out?**

“I would say to always be learning. Always keep growing and discovering. There’s no moment of an artist ‘arriving’ so you can always challenge yourself. You can always dig deeper. Getting rid of your ego is a big part of that because in this business you get told ‘no’ a lot. So, you have to get tough and say, ‘Hey, well I’m going to knock on the next door and see and not give up.’”

“Waitress” is currently on view at the Auer-Rene Theater at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and will run through April 22. For more information about showtimes, pricing and to purchase tickets, visit [browardcenter.org/events/detail/waitress](http://browardcenter.org/events/detail/waitress).

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## OFF SHORE CALENDAR

**I Am Tango by Tango Lovers**  
April 19 | 8 p.m.  
@Miramar Cultural Center

**Back to the Nineties Comedy Tour**  
April 21 | 9 p.m.  
@Gulf Stream Park

**John Mulaney**  
April 28 | 8 p.m.  
@Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino

**The Kinsey Sicks: Things You Shouldn’t Say**  
April 21 | 6 p.m. & 9 p.m.  
@Broward Center for the Performing Arts

**Open Mic Tuesday’s**  
April 24 | 8 p.m.  
@Marina 84

## Soundtracks for the summer

By: **Carli Lutz**  
Chief of Visual Design

The summer is a time to relax, unwind and to enjoy your freedom while you don’t have any classes or a laundry list of obligations weighing you down. Here’s a list of fun and fancy-free songs from lesser known indie and electronic artists that’ll help you create a summer full of memories that’ll last a lifetime.

**‘Summer Don’t Go’ by Tasty Treat (feat. Wasiu)**

Tasty Treat is an electronic music producing duo based in Los Angeles. Their song “Summer Don’t Go” is a chill summer tune all about not wanting summer to leave and trying to enjoy it to the fullest extent before it passes by.

**‘Solo’ by Getter (feat. Party Nails)**

Getter is an electronic artist, but also a jack of all trades, dabbling in electronic, metal and hip hop. “Solo,” featuring Party Nails, is a song with the wubs of dubstep but with a poppy flair

which makes it a summer party jam.

**‘Sunflower’ by Rex Orange County**

Rex Orange County is an English singer and songwriter. At 19, after he appeared on Tyler, The Creator’s album “Flower Boy,” he made his mark on the music industry. “Sunflower” is a song he dedicated to his girlfriend. It’s upbeat, romantic lyrics and all-around good vibe make it a perfect song for a nighttime drive with the windows rolled down.

**‘Upside Down’ by Oliver Tree**

Oliver Tree is a vocalist that doesn’t necessarily stick to one genre. Known for his bizarre persona, Oliver Tree makes music that’s made to stand out because nothing he makes is even remotely the same. The song, “Upside Down,” off of his debut EP has a surf rock vibe that will make you want to play it while hanging out at the beach on a sunny summer afternoon.

**‘Love Gang’ by Whethan (feat. Charli XCX)**

Whethan is a 19-year-old DJ and music producer from Chicago who is signed to Atlantic Records, alongside Charli XCX who he collaborated with to make this song. “Love Gang” is a feel-good song that’s perfect for pop fans and electronic fans alike.

**‘Peaches’ by CRAY**

CRAY is a female music producer and DJ. Her song “Peaches” is a departure from her usual style, but features her own vocals and is a song for dance-music lovers that don’t necessarily want to dance too hard.

To listen to these songs and more, check out Lutz’s “Summertime Vibes” playlist on Spotify at [bit.do/summertimevibes](http://bit.do/summertimevibes).



## OUT OF THE SHARKZONE

### “Fittest woman on earth” wins gold medal at the Commonwealth Games

Despite the loss of a beloved cousin in a tragic car accident just two weeks ago, on April 6, Tia-Clair Toomey of Australia and winner of the last year’s CrossFit Game title “Fittest woman on earth” won weightlifting gold in the 58kg category and dedicated her medal to her late cousin Jade Dixon, according to CNN Sports. The 24-year-old CrossFit Games champion commented that Dixon was “kind and genuine” adding, “I just really hope that she’s proud of me.” Toomey lifted a personal best of 114kg in the clean and jerk and defeated Canada’s Tali Darsigny by only 1kg.

### Bus carrying junior hockey team crashes in Canada leaving 15 dead and 14 injured

A bus carrying a junior hockey team in Saskatchewan, Canada was involved in a crash with a semi-truck in which 15 people died and 14 more were injured. According to USA Today, the bus containing the Humboldt Broncos crashed on Friday, April 6. Fourteen people died on the scene and the 15th victim died as a result of the collision on Saturday afternoon. The team players range in age from 16 to 21. They were on their way to play the Nipawin Hawks in a Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League playoff game. “Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the families of our staff and athletes as well as to all who have been impacted by this horrible tragedy,” Humboldt Broncos team president Kevin Garinger said in a statement. “Our Broncos family is in shock as we try to come to grips with our incredible loss.”

### Patrick Reed claims this year’s Masters’ Green Jacket

According to CNN Sports, Patrick Reed won this year’s Masters, on April 8, despite constant challenges of fellow Americans Rickie Fowler and Jordan Spieth and claimed the coveted Green Jacket. The 27-year-old battled to a one-under-par 71 for 15-under 272 to win by a stroke from Fowler, who finished with a 67. “It’s almost impossible to put into words how I feel,” said Reed, who was awarded the Green Jacket by 2017 winner Sergio Garcia of Spain. It is the first major win for Reed and with him, all four major golf titles are held by Americans 27 years of age or under.

### Steve Spurrier invites Tim Tebow to play football in the newly created AAF team

Former Florida football coach Steve Spurrier invited former Gators quarterback Tim Tebow to play in his Orlando-based team in the newly formed Alliance of America Football professional league on April 9, according to USA Today. “I think Tim knows about our league,” the 72-year-old hall of famer said on the Orlando Sentinel’s Open Mike radio show, adding, “He knows he’s welcome to come down (to Orlando) and play.” Spurrier coached the Gators from 1990-2001 and retired from college coaching in 2015.

### Bruce Brown to leave the Hurricanes

Miami Hurricanes guard Bruce Brown Jr. announced on April 9 that he will sign with an agent and turn pro, according to ESPN. By hiring an agent Brown forfeits the option to continue his college career. Brown previously announced he would declare for the NBA draft but had not signed yet. Brown is the second basketball player for the Miami Hurricanes who won’t be returning for next season. Freshman guard Lonnie Walker IV also announced his decision to turn pro this year. The NBA draft is June 21.

### Packers wide receiver Trevor Davis arrested for alleged LAX bomb joke

Green Bay Packers wide receiver Trevor Davis was arrested Sunday, April 8 after allegedly joking about a bomb at the Los Angeles International Airport, according to Local 10 News. The news about Davis’ arrest on a misdemeanor charge of making criminal threats was first reported by TMZ Sports and later confirmed through comments from LAX police. Los Angeles Police Department public information officer Rob Pedregon said the 24-year-old wide receiver was taken into custody and released on his own pending a May 3 court appearance. “The Packers are aware of the matter involving Trevor Davis,” the team said in a statement to ESPN.



## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: JUAN JOSE GUERRA



By: **Diego Galvez**  
Sports Editor

Juan Jose “JJ” Guerra is a junior business major from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and part of NSU men’s golf team. He was chosen by the GCAA to join the 2016 DII Freshman All-American Team in his freshman year. As a sophomore, he was named NCAA All-American Honorable Mention as well as All-South Region by finishing with the second highest stroke average at 73.21. He was featured in Golfweek’s Club 60 honors when he broke the course record during the second day of the Battle at the Shores and finished in second place.

### When did you begin playing golf?

“I started it when I was 2 ½ years old. I was born in 1997 and my dad started playing in 1998, so you could say we kind of had the fever going on. And then he started taking me to every golf course he went to and after that I just fell in love with it. When I was 14 or 15, I decided that I wanted make a career out of it. So, I started playing more, practicing more and started looking at the sport in a different way.”

### What motivates you to keep playing golf?

“Just the competition and knowing what I can accomplish is what keeps me going every day. The satisfaction when you do something right, when you break a course record, when you win a tournament, that’s what keeps every athlete going. That’s the cool thing about golf; you can’t get stuck. You are always getting better and I think that is the beauty of the sport.”

### What are some major achievements you have accomplished over these past few years at NSU?

“Well, my freshman year, my goal was to get into the Top 5 of the team and I did that right away and in my first two tournaments I finished runner-up and then third. That gave a lot of confidence to keep going. After that I kind of got stuck. I didn’t play well for a couple of months, but my sophomore year in April I broke the record at Normandy in Miami Beach. That



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Juan Jose Guerra’s most memorable athletic achievement is winning the Caribbean Junior Amateur Championships held in Puerto Rico.

opened my eyes and made me realize what I’m capable of, and I started to practice harder and harder just to accomplish my dreams. So far, this year I’ve been pretty close to my goal.”

### What are your goals after you graduate?

“When I graduate, I want to play professionally. I still don’t know if I want to turn pro right away or if I’m going to wait until 2020; I graduate in May 2019. So, I might wait until January 2020, but I want to play professionally for sure. That’s what I have been preparing for all these years and it’s something that has always been my dream and I want at least to give it a try. I know it’s a tough career, but I don’t want to have any regrets.”

### How was your transition from the Dominican Republic to the States?

“It was different. My senior year of high school I studied in a golf academy in Orlando. That basically got me in here [NSU] with the scholarship opportunity I was offered. It wasn’t as shocking for me to come to college since I

already spent a year of high school [in the U.S.], but it’s definitely different. We don’t have golf programs back in the Dominican Republic, we don’t have sports scholarships, we don’t have any of that, so I think I’m really privileged to be able to have this opportunity, and I love it. I love the course being right next to my house, that’s something that doesn’t happen back home. It’s definitely easier to play golf here than back home.”

### What would you say is the most difficult thing for you as a student-athlete?

“As a student-athlete I think it’s just the balance between practice time and school time and doing both right as well as having a social life. It’s hard to balance all three because you can get carried away by school and then your sport side takes a toll or the other way around. It’s really easy to fall into this, so it’s pretty hard to keep a balance. My freshman year, since I was new at this, I didn’t do a good job at it and I focused more on the sport and kind of let school go down a little, but I hope that I’m doing it better now. I’m trying my best and I think that is the tough part about being a student-athlete. [Students] are required to do well in all three areas of their lives. You have to be a nice person, social, you have to do well in school as well as in your sport, and most people don’t have to do that. I think it’s an advantage and it’s also a disadvantage but at the end it’s worth it.”

### How is your relationship with your teammates?

“I love them. I’ve been a part of three teams now at NSU. The first team I was in my freshman year its completely gone now. I’m the last guy standing from that team because I was the youngest guy. It was a really mature team and I was the youngest guy by a couple of years and I learned a lot from them. Then last year, we had a team that is pretty similar to the current one and with them, I was one of the most experienced guys on the team because I had

been at NSU the longest, and this year again. It’s interesting to see how much the team and you, as a player, change over the years. I’ve learned a lot from really good players that are currently playing professional golf and it’s something that you look up to. You see the guys that you were playing with a couple years ago out there winning, earning money and participating in professional tournaments and you want to do the same, so that inspires me.”

### Do you have any special rituals that you do before a tournament?

“Not really, I’m not a very superstitious guy. I just try to prepare the best for every event. I always use a ball marker, something that I use to mark the ball with, and I have used the same one for the last nine years. If I don’t play with that, I’m not playing well. But I’ve never lost it, I still have it with me every day. But, I always try and prepare the best for the tournaments and if I know the course beforehand I try to prepare as much as I can on that specific course. If there’s a course that is tight or a course that is wide open, you try to adjust yourself to that course before the week of the tournament.”

### If you weren’t playing golf, what would you be doing instead?

“That’s a question that a lot of people ask me. I have been playing the sport for 17 ½, almost 18 years now. So, it’s pretty hard for me to see myself doing something else, but my mom is an architect and my dad is an entrepreneur and I feel like I’d be something like an entrepreneur as well. But, if I didn’t play college golf, I feel like I would still be related to some kind of sport because I just love them all. Coming from the Dominican Republic, I love baseball and my family, my grandpa used to play baseball all the time. So, I would probably be doing something related to sports and business. But to be honest, I can’t picture myself doing anything else other than golf.”

# ON DECK

## MEN'S BASEBALL

vs. St. Thomas  
April 17 | 6 p.m.  
NSU Baseball Complex

vs. Eckerd  
April 20 | 6 p.m.  
NSU Baseball Complex

vs. Eckerd (DH)  
April 21 | 1 & 4 p.m.  
NSU Baseball Complex

## MEN'S GOLF

vs. 2018 SSC Championship  
April 22-24  
Grande Oaks Golf Club,  
Davie, Fla.

## WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

vs. Palm Beach Atlantic  
April 20 | 6 p.m.  
Ad Griffin

vs. Palm Beach Atlantic (DH)  
April 21 | 1 & 3 p.m.  
Ad Griffin

Women's Tennis  
vs. Sunshine State  
Conference Championship  
April 19-21

## WOMEN'S ROWING

@Sira Regatta  
April 20-22  
Oak Ridge, Tenn.

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

vs. Sunshine State  
Conference Championship  
April 19-21  
Brandenton, Fla.

## TRACK & FIELD

@Peach Belt Conference  
Championship  
April 19-21  
Pembroke, N.C.



By: **Michaela Greer**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Cincinnati Bengals have not had a post-season playoff victory in 26 years. On April 11, the team's owner, Mike Brown, had a chance to possibly shift the tides if he agreed to sign strong safety Eric Reid. Before closing on a deal with the free agent athlete, Brown felt it necessary to hold a private meeting to vet the team's newest prospect. Given the team's penchant for causing trouble, it was understandable at first why Brown might have wanted to speak with Reid. But, what doesn't make sense is what Pro Football Talk's Mike Florio reported as the red flag for Brown: the athlete's inability to promise that he would never kneel during the national anthem.

According to the NY Daily News, 26-year-old Reid made the Pro Bowl in 2013 and has racked up "10 interceptions, 36 pass defenses, 264 tackles, two forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries" over the span of his five-season professional career. Yet, the Bengals

owner would not dream of signing the stellar athlete unless Brown made a commitment not to participate in another demonstration, as he had previously done while playing with the 49ers, alongside former teammate Colin Kaepernick, and throughout much of 2017.

It's interesting that this was seemingly the only ire that Brown had when considering recruiting a player to a team which, according to the Bleacher Report, has seen more than 32 of its players arrested between 2000 and 2011. For instance, according to ESPN, Bengals cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones was arrested twice in 2013 on domestic violence charges, and in 2007 he was involved in an altercation in a Las Vegas strip club that left a man paralyzed from the waist down. Wide receiver Chris Henry was arrested six times in a span of three months for assault, drunk driving, and drug and gun charges before his death in 2009. Last year, Brown welcomed Joe Mixon to the team, despite

having been suspended in 2014 by University of Oklahoma for punching a woman so hard that he broke the bones in her face.

Yet, I can't recall hearing of a single instance when Brown called for a private meeting to meet with Jones, Mixon or Henry. Somehow, to Brown, assault, drunk driving and abuse aren't as alarming as peaceful protests against the acts of violence that have plagued American society. Apparently, none of these acts committed by his players were red flags worthy of a private discussion and point-blank questions.

Brown, if you're going to start taking an interest in the actions of NFL athletes, might I suggest that you first pull the plank out of your own player's eyes? How are you even leading a team when you can't find your own compass? My opinion: Throw the whole management away.

## SPORTS SHORTS

### Men's Baseball

The Sharks took home a victory against Saint Leo on April 6, which increased their winning streak to nine straight. Redshirt senior Andrew Liberty stole the show as they defeated the Lions with a score of 10-6. Liberty hit for the cycle for the first time in his career, and the first time for the program in 13 years, in a 16-5 Sharks victory to wrap up a three-game road sweep of Saint Leo. On April 7, the Sharks played the second match of three against Saint Leo and won with a score of 19-4. In this match, Senior Dylan Harris led off the game with a home run and was followed by junior Jake Anchia three batters later. Finally, on April 8, the Sharks swept Saint Leo with a score of 18-13. Liberty scored first on a double by Anchia.

### Women's Golf

The women's golf team ended the Lady Panther Invitational with a third place finish out of eight teams. Senior Michelle Ruiz led the way for the NSU lineup by earning a share of second at one-under par. She was followed by junior Sophie Madden and senior Janelle Johnson. They also finished Top-10 in the field.

### Women's Softball

The women's softball team suffered three losses on three matches against Florida Tech held on April 6 and 7. On April 6, Florida Tech won with a score of 4-1, though senior Dana Edmundson scored after an error by the Panthers. The next day, the Sharks failed to score a point which led to a final score of 8-0. On the second match they also failed to beat Florida Tech and had a final score of 2-4.

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## Our selfishness is ruining our planet

By: **Madelyn Rinka**  
News Editor

April 22 is Earth Day, which is important for several reasons. For many, the sole purpose of this day is to seemingly remind them about the harmful impacts a variety of practices can have on their health. From sensationalized advertisements about cancer-causing pollutants, to statistics about food waste and crops dying, a lot of what we tend to focus on about Earth Day has one specific interest group: us. That isn't ridiculous, of course, as we tend to care about things in our own lives before looking at the broader perspective, and it is important for us to understand how polluting our environment can hurt us. But this selfishness isn't going to be helpful in the long run, both to the earth and all of its other inhabitants.

Humans are selfish creatures. To some extent, this is necessary for us if we are to hold our spot as the dominant intelligent species on this planet. We fill in wetlands to build neighborhoods, slash and burn acres of forests, drill for fossil fuels and corral animals into tiny cages to provide us with food to eat. All of these have massive environmental impacts, yet we continue to practice them daily. Why? Because

we can't see it or feel it harming us as we reap profits.

Activities that explicitly harm us are what worry people. When we literally used hairspray like there was no tomorrow back in the '80s, we soon learned about the impacts of volatile organic compounds and chlorofluorocarbons like aerosols on our health, and changed the problematic formulas. The study on it even won chemists Mario Molina and F. Sherwood Rowland a Nobel Prize, according to Understanding Science, University of Berkeley. When it was revealed that these chemicals caused ozone depletion, it was exposed to the public that it could cause cancer, cataracts and immune problems. Suddenly the ingredients, and the public's opinion on hairspray, was drastically altered.

But why do things need to be put into the context of human harm before we care about it? With deforestation, entire forests are destroyed for the creation of products like paper, palm oil or towels, which benefit our daily lives. The destruction, however, doesn't benefit the environment. When rainforests are cleared using

slash and burn techniques to be utilized for agriculture, the land is only successful for a few seasons, because the nutrients in these natural ecosystems are trapped in the foliage, not the soil. In addition, our habits can have horrific and unpredictable impacts on animal life.

In the case of the palm oil industry, it is estimated that 90 percent of orangutans' habitats have been destroyed over the past 20 years due to the harvesting of this ingredient, according to Say No to Palm Oil. Unfortunately for orangutans, humans really like peanut butter with palm oil, which gives it the classic, creamy texture we're all used to, even though it can be made without it. Thus, because of this preference, we continue to harm orangutans and their habitat for our benefit.

Another example is that of microplastics. Microplastics are small particles of plastic that may come from the breaking down of bottles, exfoliating beads in facial cleansers and even glitter, among other things. More recently in the news, the use of microplastics has been scrutinized for its damaging impacts on marine ecosystems. We were aware that the plastic we

use on a daily basis can get washed into the ocean and stays there for hundreds of years, and it should be common sense that this can harm fish and other marine life. However, it wasn't until scientists found that humans have begun ingesting these plastics in the fish they consume that it became a problem. Why wasn't the fact that it kills animals, ruins diverse and unique ecosystems and pollutes our water enough to convince the majority of our population that microplastics are bad?

Of course, not everyone out there is oblivious to environment issues — but the firepower of those who are just isn't enough. Plenty of well-informed people make educated decisions about their habits and even dedicate their lives to protecting the environment, but unfortunately for Earth, these people cannot save the planet without global support. We as a species need to be more aware of life around us and realize that our selfish practices are ruining our planet, whether we can feel it or not.

## H&M, Forever 21 and Urban Outfitters have the same twisted agenda

By: **Christina McLaughlin**  
Opinions Editor

After my most recent trip to the mall where I scoured the aisles of the largest, mainly female-targeted fashion brands like H&M, Forever 21 and Urban Outfitters, there seems to be a common trend. Major controversies within the fashion industry involving racism, distasteful messages and unethical slogans have all been featured in their clothing.

In 2014, Urban Outfitters posted an extremely distasteful "vintage" Kent State University sweatshirt featuring poorly-chosen red splatter resembling blood — incredibly disturbing given four Kent State students were killed and nine were injured in a mass shooting in 1970. In early January, H&M was accused of racism when a hoodie with the slogan "Coolest Monkey in the Jungle" was modeled by a young black boy. Forever 21 received some bad press this past year when the company launched a line of graphic T-shirts which seemingly encouraged young girls to lower their self-confidence by

wearing sexualized sayings like "Risqué," "Gross," "I only did this to get likes" and "I'm actually really smart."

One would think after these controversies that these companies would put in extra effort to make sure these issues never happen again. But as the controversies pile up, it seems the opposite has happened and, if anything, it's increasing. This past summer H&M sold Native-American-styled headdresses, and in March they petitioned to use an artist's graffiti, without compensating said artist, on their merchandise. In 2016, Urban Outfitters sold shampoo for "suicidal hair" and in 2015 sold a tapestry reminiscent of the symbol that gay, Jewish people were forced to wear during the Holocaust to identify themselves. Finally, let's not forget Forever 21's obsession with putting weird slogans on clothing that would be perfectly fine plain.

It begs the question, "But, why?" The simplest answer: Shock marketing and

advertising. This clever form of improving sales is a large part of the fashion industry and other advertising platforms. By creating products that encourage a response — negative or positive — they can create a buzz to potentially rake in more consumers who might venture into these stores to do some investigating of their own. Even though these visitors might be there to rant or find something wrong with their clothing, according to Salesforce.com, they have a higher chance of making a purchase. So, if they can encourage a customer to visit, even if that's only to trash their branding or look for a mistake, the customer might find an item they do like in the process.

Customers can also get sucked into the world of "point of purchase" and merchant products that will attract a customer's natural inclination to make impulse buys. An article on Shopify.com explained the retailers use these tactics to increase "impulse purchases" sales like

the all-too-prevalent \$1 hand sanitizer found in the check out aisle.

So why are brands pushing such negative press on themselves? The New York Times found that H&M has racked up \$4.3 billion in unsold products, according to their most recent quarterly report. With that much product left on the cutting room floor, so to speak, it can't be good. This may be why the company is desperately trying to create some buzz and sell some product with a scandal. As the adage says, "Any press is good press."

The fast-fashion industry is already in a lot of hot water and now, with this seemingly-framed marketing campaign, it seems like they are trying to solve this situation with bad press. If these controversies are generated on purpose, that is just sick and sad.

## Florida's public education system: Is it an equal playing field?

By: **Mykella Mitchell**  
Contributing Writer

Education is the racetrack of life, and every student is running. Each race becomes harder the more hurdles are placed on the track, but the chance of crossing the finish line remains. In order to succeed, some guidance is essential, but what if the coach is preoccupied with other runners and other tasks? As a runner with little-to-no coaching, crossing that finish line has become more difficult. This ongoing struggle is what it is like for everyday students in Florida; while some are given guidance, others are not, and are forced to complete this educational journey alone.

According to the United States Census Bureau, minorities comprise 47.3 percent of Florida's population compared to a national average of 40.9 percent. Minorities are more likely to come from families without a college education and lower income than their white counterparts. Due to this and various other

factors, guidance is vital to high school students as they prepare for the next chapter of their lives. But more often than not, students feel exposed and alone during college preparation. There can be various resources at students' disposal, except for enough guidance counselors to accommodate the masses. Schools are often only concerned with a particular group of students, the top 10 percent or the profitable jocks propelling the sports funding and countywide recognition. Not every student will excel academically or athletically, but they still have the potential to achieve great things. It becomes harder for these students to meet their potential if 100 students out of 1,000 receive proper guidance and the rest are relying on the internet and college admission officers.

As a student who is the product of public school system, I have seen the best and worst of both worlds. I understand the importance

of having a relationship with your high school guidance counselor and also understand that many people do not receive a proper chance to meet him or her until its college application season. Some of my friends joked that they went to prom more than they met with the school's guidance counselor. Due to a lack of time, many students feel their guidance counselor has not helped them enough, and in an area with a lot of diversity how are schools supposed to help potential first-generation college students or low-income students who aren't as "extraordinary" as the top 10 percent or the athletic stars?

Guidance is critical, and with education always pushed but rarely explained, how are we supposed to even the playing field? More funding and college access programs are available, but how can one access if all the information is provided to "more intelligent" or "more athletic" classmates? Schools need to

give every student information to make educated decisions about affordable schools, scholarships, college majors and alternative possibilities. Most importantly, there needs to be a better guidance team, because one to two people cannot help hundreds to thousands of students. Florida needs to invest more in the education system, and the best way to start is providing more guidance to the masses. With more educational gaps between family generations and less of a contribution, Florida must guide those who could succeed past college if only given a chance, as well as the "extraordinary" students. Those overlooked students can be our next mechanic, physicist or business owner; they need support from the Florida Department of Education and their home school.



## New linguistic study reveals that use of 'literally' deserves second look

By: **Tiffany Brand**  
Contributing Writer

Twenty-two-year-old Kelly Nicholas, a thought-to-be frequent flyer in linguistic hyperbole, exclaimed that after her phone fell into the water during a seaward selfie, she “literally died.”

Intellectuals who were present simultaneously rolled their eyes at the reckless disregard for the literal meaning of the word, when closer inspection revealed that Nicholas was no longer performing the basic metabolic activities necessary for life.

“One minute I’m turning the camera to capture my best angles with a glimpse of the somewhat less attractive seascape behind me, and then all of a sudden I’m being taken on a date or whatever down some Acheron river,” the ghost of Nicholas explained. “Literally all I wanted to do was take one decent picture in my new Victoria’s Secret bikini and maybe get a few emojis with heart eyes thrown around.

“This post means everything because Mark [her crush] liked two of my pictures in a row and if he double-tapped my selfie flush with ripe melons, it would be a definite sign

that he’s into me. Mark, if you’re reading this, Sofia edits her Instagram pictures and she’s not even good at it. Also, one of the brothers in Psi Kappa Psi overheard one of her sorority sisters talking to her mom’s friend about her and she said that Sofia had two back-to-back urinary tract infections.”

Nicholas is not the only victim of this emerging epidemic. People everywhere between the ages of 16 and 24 are metaphorically dropping like flies. A recent poll revealed that about 67 percent of victims were female. In 100 percent of the recorded incidents involving variations of “I’m literally dead,” the victims were relatively basic compared to their counterparts. In cases where the phrase was preceded by the words, “Oh my god” the death was longer and more excruciating. Not surprisingly, abbreviating to “OMG” increased the shearing pain at least six fold.

Social scientists are puzzled by this ubiquitous phenomenon but also collectively assert that no efforts should be made to stop it.



## Girls and guys can be friends no problem... until there’s a problem

By: **Siena Berardi**  
Contributing Writer

*NSU students are opinionated about all kinds of things, from universal social issues to NSU-specific concerns. Sometimes, however, we Sharks just need to rant about the smaller things in life to let off some steam. In this column, The Current asks: water your thoughts?*

There is a stigma that claims that guys and girls can’t be friends without getting romantically involved. I don’t believe this to be true. Over the years, I have and have had many friendships with guys without finding myself in romantic relationships with them. I’m the type of person who makes friends with everyone so I understand how sometimes the lines can get blurred. It annoys me when people say, “You can’t be friends with a guy without the friendship inevitably getting weird.”

Is there really a way for girl-guy relationships to be completely platonic? Everyone I talk to seems to be locked in on the idea that these relationships don’t work out. It’s really hard to decipher someone else’s thoughts and feelings when we try our best to act casual and pay no mind to them. We think that if we just keep quiet and not talk about the specifics, we’ll be good. But there will always be that underlying “what if…” A friendship may start out because one of the two individuals had feelings and then squashed them, or it started out friendly and ended in a more serious relationship. It depends on the people, the circumstances and the age of the people involved. I just have a hard time coming to terms with the idea that girl-guy friendships are a lost cause.

## Don’t buy into the misconceptions of marijuana

By: **Samantha Villarroel**  
Contributing Writer

As most people know, 4/20 is the celebration of Cannabis Day, and within the last few years there’s been an increase of productivity with the plant. As cannabis continues to be legalized for medical or recreational purposes, more information is available to the public about marijuana. Twenty-nine states legalized medical marijuana — including Florida — and so far nine states have legalized recreational marijuana, with California recently approving it Jan 1. For years, the topic of legalization of marijuana has been considered taboo because of its side effects and main psychoactive components tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD). However, there are some common misconceptions about marijuana, like:

### The belief that marijuana will kill you

According to the DEA, “No deaths from overdose of marijuana have been reported,” in their 2017 Drugs of Abuse guide. Since there hasn’t been any evidence proving that someone died from smoking too much, people should realize that while they can overdose, meaning smoking more than your body can handle, but not necessarily die.

### Synthetic weed is better for you

Synthetic weed, also known as K2 or SPICE, is horrible. According to U.S. News, “Synthetic marijuana can be made with nearly 100 different chemicals that are often sprayed onto dried, shredded plant material.” It’s known

to be cheaper than marijuana but it’s a man-made drug with chemicals that causes lethal harm to the body. The physical traits are completely different from the plant.

### Cheaper is better

Absolutely not. According to U.S. News, “K2,” or synthetic marijuana, can be bought for as little as \$5. Always buy and consume from dispensaries they have full information on the potency of the plant and can provide a detailed description of choices and varieties.

During the last few weeks of my friend’s dad being in hospice, the best pain reliever he took turned out to be medical marijuana. People have moved to Colorado so their

children can be treated for epilepsy and other neurological conditions with medical marijuana. Even Whoopi Goldberg partnered with Maya Elisabeth, founder of Om Edibles, to create a whole healing line based on medicinal products for women’s menstrual cycles. There are multiple uses to cannabis, as it helps alleviate pain and treat disorders.

It’s always best to research and inform yourself on the topic. Thinking back to those weed PSA commercials with the deflated girl on the couch, those exaggerations about “what will happen when you smoke pot” are just unrealistic. Educate yourself for higher learning — pun intended.



“They are making an effort to be by posting the recycling bins along the residence halls and along campus. We have recycling options, but there are things that [NSU] can do better, like using tupperware and things like that. But, I’d say they do a decent job.”

- **Alejandro Serrano**, junior biology major



“Both yes and no. I think NSU can do a better job. There are not many activities that are environmentally involved. Recycling is not a priority here so much. I lived in Germany and recycling is very different compared to [how it is] here.”

- **Fabian Gomez**, freshman psychology major



“They recycle with the bins all around campus but other than recycling, I don’t think NSU is environmentally conscious. They also have the napkins that say ‘[made from] 100 percent recyclable materials,’ but they don’t do much other than that. If they tried they could [do better].”

- **Melissa Perez**, freshman behavioral neuroscience major



“NSU is kind of environmentally conscious with the recycling bins. But they’re not doing much other than that. They just say ‘Here are the recycling bins. It’s all up to you.’ There’s no real initiative that they are launching [to be environmentally conscious].”

- **Nick Curci**, sophomore computer science major



“I would say it is. I notice we do a lot about recycling and we have the Green Sharks [Sustainability Club] that does a lot of work on campus. I know as a marine bio major, in our classes, we learn to observe and not destroy the environment. So far from my experience, it is.”

- **Abrielle Bea**, sophomore marine biology major



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